

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

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SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W

----- 040825

R 311208Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3236

INFO AMEMBAAASY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 8485

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, YE, IR

SUBJ: YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC PRESIDENT LEAVES IRAN WITH
PROMISES OF AID, INCREASED CULTURAL TIES

1. PRESIDENT AL HAMDI'S AUGUST 27-29 VISIT WAS GIVEN FULL HEAD OF STATE TREATMENT, WITH SHAH PRESENT AT AIRPORT FOR BOTH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. AT DINNER FOR HAMDI FIRST EVENING, SHAH SPOKE AT LENGTH OF HISTORICAL TIES DATING BACK TO PRE-ISLAMIC PERIOD, MENTIONING MARRIAGE OF SHAH KAI KAVOUS TO DAUGHTER OF A YEMNI KING. HE COMPLIMENTED HAMDI ON PROGRESS BEING MADE IN YAR, WHICH FIT IN WITH PREVISIT SPECULATION BY PRESS THAT YEMENI PRESIDENT WOULD BE SEEKING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM IRAN. IT WAS THEREFORE NO SURPRISE THAT FINAL COMMUNIQUE STATED TWO COUNTRIES WOULD "EXPAND BILATERAL RELATIONS IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND PRESS SPHERES, AS WELL AS IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN COMMUNICATIONS, RADIO AND TELEVISION." FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONTENT OF COMMUNIQUE WAS MINIMAL, REFLECTING ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. HAMDI PRAISED IRAN'S POLICY OF CONSOLIDATING ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY, DEFENDING ARAB INTERESTS, AND WORKING FOR PEACE AND STABILITY OF THIS REGION. SHAH ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT YAR AT TIME TO BE DECIDED ALTER. HAMDI

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DEPARTED IRAN FOR BAHRAIN.

2. PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, ACCOSTED BY PRESSMEN AT AIRPORT FOR AN UNSCHEDULED INTERVIEW, TOLD THEM IRAN WOULD "ASSUREDLY" EXTEND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AID TO YEMEN. NO TIMETABLE FOR SUCH ACTION WAS MENTIONED, NOR WERE DETAILS GIVEN.

3. AT GOLESTIN PALACE RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AMBASSADOR JOKINGLY ASKED HAMDI IF HE WERE TAKING GOOD CARE OF AMBASSADOR SCOTES, HIS REPLY TRANSLATED BY AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM, WAS DEAD SERIOUS,"CERTAINLY. HE IS OUR FRIEND."

4. COMMENT: DESPITE CONSTANT OFFICIAL WARNINGS THAT IRAN MUST KEEP EXPENDITURES WITHIN BOUNDS AND WILL CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE ANY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, COMMITMENTS LIKE THAT MADE TO AL HAMDI CONTINUE TO OCCUR. WE BELIEVE GOI GIMPLY FINDS IT EASIER TO SAY YES, AND THEN STALL FOR TIME, THAN TO SAY NO. ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IS AN ISSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLE: OUT OF AN ESTIMATED ONE TO TWO BILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT, ONLY TEN MILLION DOLLARS HAVE BEEN DRAWN DOWN AND THEY ARE TO BE USED ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES.
HELMS

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